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**PATENT**  
016295.1512

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this paper will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service on December 20, 2006 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*[Signature]*  
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Signature

*12-20-06*  
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Date

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Sankaran, et al.

Serial No.: 10/748,634

Filed: December 30, 2003

Title: Distributed Failover Aware Storage  
Area Network Backup of Application  
Data in an Active-N High Availability  
Cluster

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Group Art No.: 2114

Examiner: Chu, Gabriel L.

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action mailed September 20, 2006, Applicants submit this response and respectfully request reconsideration of the examiner's objections and rejections. This response is considered timely filed, and Applicants do not believe that there are any fees associated with the filing of this response. Applicants hereby authorize and instruct the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to charge Deposit Account No. 02-0383 (matter 016295.1512) for any charges necessary for the filing of this response.